

**Abstract:**

A switching arrangement is connected between a PC and a communications line. The switching arrangement is controlled by a supply voltage accessible from the outside of the PC. With the PC switched off, this supply voltage disappears and the device in the communications line switches into a blocking mode. In this way it is possible to disconnect the PC completely from the communications line without acting on the PC, even if the communications card or the modem wants to maintain a constant connection with the outside world.